

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

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FM AMCONSUL FLORENCE
TO AMEMBASSY ROME
SECSTATE WASHDC 1626
USIA WASHDC
RUFHOML /AMCONSUL MILAN 0122

UNCLAS FLORENCE 0112

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: SOPN, IT
SUBJECT: FAREWELL ADDRESSES OF DOMENICO BARTOLI AND ALFREDO
PIERONI

REF: FLORENCE 100 (NOTAL)

1. SUMMARY. FAREWELL EDITORIALS OF DOMENICO BARTOLI ("LA NAZIONE") AND ALFREDO PIERONI ("IL RESTO DEL CARLINO") BOTH CONTAIN SIGNIFICANT INSIGHTS OF INTO WAY BOTH EDITORS VIEW CURRENT SCENE. "IL RESTO DEL CARLINO" EDITORIAL COMMITTEE STATEMENT ALSO REVEALS REACTION OF SIGNIFICANT DISCONTENT AMONG THAT PAPER'S JOURNALISTS.

2. IN MARCH 6 FAREWELL EDITORIAL IN "LA NAZIONE", BARTOLI REVIEWED MAJOR THEME OF HIS SEVEN YEAR CRUSADE AS DIRECTOR OF THE FLORENCE DAILY. IN HIS LAST SALVO, BARTOLI SAYS FUNDAMENTAL QUESTION CONFRONTING ITALIANS IS: QUOTE WILL ITALY AGAIN ACQUIRE MINIMUM OF ORDER, EQUILIBRIUM AND SERIOUSNESS OF PURPOSE IWTHOUT PAYING UNACCEPTABLE PRICE IN LIBERTY AND INDEPENDENCE? UNQUOTE.

3. HE WARNS THAT ALTHOUGH PCI MAY NOT BE PARTY OF
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CONCENTRATION CAMP, IT CLOSED AND EMULATES SOVIET LEAD.

4. BARTOLI ALSO LASHES OUT AT WHAT HE CALLS QUOTE CONFORMIST UNQUOTE ITALIAN PRESS WHICH REFUSES TO HOLD UP TP TO PUBLIC SCRUTINY CONTRADICTIONS IN PCI'S RHETORIC AND ACTION, TACTO CORRECT TO TACTICS AND HISTORICAL RECORD.

5. IN BIDDING HIS READERS GOODBYE, ALFREDO PIERONI ALSO FOCUSES ON PCI BUT TAKES DIFFERENT LINE. PIERONI IMPLIES PCI HAS EVOLVED BUT STILL HAS SOME DISTANCE TO TRAVEL DOWN THE ROAD TOWARD ACCEPTANCE OF PARLIAMENTARY DEMOCRACY. HE CONCLUDES THAT ITALY NEEDS THE LEFT AND ESPECIALLY A LOYAL AND CONSTRUCTIVE COMMUNIST OPPOSITION.

6. COMMENTING ON THE STATE OF THE NEWSPAPER, PEIRONI SAYS HE LEAVES "CARLINO" WITH CIRCULATION AT RECORD LEVEL, ADVERTISEMENT UP 40 PERCENT AND WITH 8 NEW LOCAL EDITIONS CREATED WITHIN THE LAST YEAR.

7. IN COMPANION EDITORIAL, "CARLINO'S" COMITATO DI REDAZIONE (JOURNALIST COMMITTEE) PROCLAIMS ESTEEM FOR ITS DEPARTING DIRECTOR. IN A FIVE POINT DECLARATION IT SAYS: (A) PIERONI'S DISMISSAL HAS NO PROFESSIONAL JUSTIFICATION# (B) THE PUBLISHER'S PROPOSED RESTRUCTURING HAS NEVER BEEN SUBJECT OF CONSULTATION WITH THE EDITORIAL COMMITTEE# (C) THE COMMITTEE REJECTS THE CONCEPT OF EDITORIAL AND OTHER UNIFICATION WITH "LA NAZIONE"# (D) THE FIRING OF BARTOLI AND PIERONI ADD TO ALREADY EXISTING CONTRACTUAL TENSIONS BETWEEN JOURNALISTS AND PUBLISHERS# (E) THE NEW DIRECTOR DI BELLA WILL BE THE FIFTH FOR "CARLINO" IN 9 YEARS, A SITUATION WHICH THE COMMITTEE SAYS CONTRIBUTES TO INSTABILITY IN A TIME OF CRISIS IN BOTH THE SOCIETY AND NEWSPAPER WORLD.

8. COMMENT: WE HAVE HEARD CONFLICTING REPORTS ABOUT WHETHER PROPOSED QUOTE CONSOLIDATED EDITORIAL DIRECTION UNQUOTE WILL BE CENTERED IN BOLOGNA OR FLORENCE OR POSSIBLY COME UNCLASSIFIED

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FROM SOME THIRD SOURCE. ALSO NOTE THAT CHANGES SEEM TO HAVE GONE DOWN MORE SMOOTHLY WITH STAFF OF "NAZIONE" THAN THAT OF "CARLINO" WHERE MORE INDEPENDENT SPIRIT HAS REIGNED AND FEATHERS HAVE BEEN RUFFLED.
GORDON

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Disposition Approved on Date:
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Disposition Comment:
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